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C.Moore

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Before the Primary Examiner

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In re Application of : HAROLD R. KAUFMAN et al. Serial No. 09/848,644 Filed: May 3, 2001 For: IMPROVED HALL-CURRENT ION SOURCE) Group Art Unit: 2870) Examiner: Holly Harper)

Attorney Docket No. 353-07

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2002.

Reconsideration is requested.

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been allowed.

Claims 4 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,989).

The Examiner admits that the cited Kaufman reference doesn't specifically disclose a baffle means as required in applicants' claims 4 and 9. The Examiner contends, however, that the Kaufman reference discloses an anode with two distinct pieces, that the anode pieces are "electrically isolated", and that one of the anode pieces could serve as a baffle means.

Although the Kaufman reference (Fig. 12) does disclose an anode with two distinct pieces, those anode pieces are not electrically isolated from each other. Rather, they are both at anode potential (Col. 11, lines 48-51). Also, one of the anode

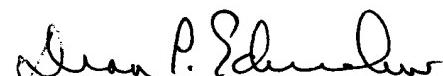
pieces (102A) is magnetically permeable but the other part (102B) is not.

Applicants' claims 4 and 9 specifically recite that the baffle means is "electrically isolated from said anode". Applicants' claims further recite that the baffle means is configured so that approximately one-third or more of the area of the electron-collecting surface of the anode cannot be reached by straight lines originating from a given point exterior of the ion source.

It is clear that the cited Kaufman reference does not disclose or suggest the feature of baffle means "electrically isolated from said anode", nor does that reference suggest baffle means configured so that approximately one-third or more of the area of the electron-collecting surface of the anode cannot be reached by straight lines originating from a point exterior of the ion source.

Because the cited Kaufman reference does not disclose or suggest the features of applicants' claims, applicants submit that the Section 103(a) rejection is unsound and should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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SIGNED Dean P. Edmundson

DATE January 28, 2003